Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: SHUM AR

SUBJ: OVERVIEW OF FOWG CASES

- 1. AN ANALYSIS OF THE 500 US INTEREST CASES PRESENTED TO DATE TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE WORKING GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS (FOWG) SHOWS THAT 365 (73 PERCENT) OF THE EMBASSY'S CASES INVOLVED DISAPPEARANCES AND 135 (27 PERCENT) INVOLVED DETAINEES. OF THIS LATTER GROUP, EIGHT HAVE BEEN RELEASED, EIGHT EXPELLED, AND FOUR OTHERS AUTHORIZED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY UNDER THE RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM.
- 2. AS OF SEPTEMBER 5, 1978 THE EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED REPLIES FROM THE FOWG IN 260 (52 PERCENT) OF THE CASES PRESENTED. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT INFORMATION REGARDING ANOTHER 85 U.S. INTEREST CASES HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO THE FOWG BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND IS BEING PROCESSED WITHIN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY FOR SUBMISSION TO US.)
- 3. OF THOSE DISAPPEARANCE CASES PRESENTED, SIX CONFIDENTIAL

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PERSONS WERE LOCATED AND REPORTED TO US BY FOWG. FOR THE OTHER DISAPPEARANCE CASES WE RECEIVED A STANDARD "NO INFORMATION" REPLY. IN THOSE INQUIRIES INVOLVING DETAINEES WE RECEIVED IN MANY CASES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUALS, BUT THERE WERE FEW "SURPRISES"--FOWG INFORMATION BASICALLY CONFIRMED WHAT FAMILIES HAD ORIGINALLY TOLD US.

4. ALTHOUGH ONLY A HALF DOZEN OF OUR FOWG DISAPPEARANCE CASES TURNED UP, AND ONLY 20 HIGH INTEREST DETAINEES HAVE BEEN FREED, OUR FOWG PRESENTATIONS CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE, THE U.S. INTEREST IN INDIVIDUAL CASES (OFTEN CONGRESSIONAL), AND THE NEGATIVE IMAGE PRODUCED IN THE U.S. BY THE GOA'S CONTINUING ANTI-SUBVERSIVE PROGRAM. CASTRO

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